

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 18, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker,

While I was obviously disappointed by your decision to direct your caucus to vote to refer H.Res 114, on the matter of George Santos to the ethics committee, you said that you believe that such a referral would, in some way, serve to expedite the ongoing ethics investigation into Congressman Santos. You told members of the media that:

“I think we can look at this very quickly and come to a conclusion on what George Santos did and did not do through ethics, a safe bipartisan committee. I would like the Ethics Committee to move rapidly on this.”¹

The Republican motion on H.Res 114 refers the resolution to the Ethics Committee, where that measure has actually been pending since I introduced it on February 9th. As you know, the re-referral of my resolution has no bearing on Ethics Committee investigations. An Ethics Committee investigation *was* opened, following complaints filed by my friends and colleagues Congressman Dan Goldman and Congressman Ritchie Torres of New York, though I note that this investigation has lagged behind the pace set by the Department of Justice.

I note that Ethics Committee Chair Michael Guest also voted with your conference, and with Mr. Santos himself, for the referral motion, which I hope means that he is committed to the swift action you say you support.

I was therefore deeply disappointed by apparent confusion among my Republican colleagues, who took action to effectively deny the American people the opportunity to see a transparent, open vote on whether George Santos deserves to continue to serve as a Member of this body, without doing anything to secure real accountability.

¹ Talbot, Manu Raju, Haley. “McCarthy Says House Ethics Should Move “Rapidly” on Santos as Democrats Push for Expulsion | CNN Politics.” CNN, 16 May 2023, www.cnn.com/2023/05/16/politics/george-santos-house-vote/index.html.

Given your promises of swift action by the Ethics Committee, I hope that you will clarify the timeline by which we can expect the Ethics Committee to “move rapidly” so that the House can take a transparent vote on whether Mr. Santos deserves to continue to serve as a member of this body.

I eagerly await clarification of your plan for action by the Ethics Committee, along with a clear public timeline of when we may expect a report to be issued.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Garcia", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Garcia
Member of Congress